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SIPDIS

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TAGS: PGOV PREL MOPS PHUM PREF KPKO CG
SUBJECT: CNDP - GDRC: ONE STEP FORWARD, TEN STEPS BACK?

- 11. CNDP Spokesman Bertrand Bisimwa disseminated by e-mail the following message regarding the latest round of GDRC-CNDP negotiations in Nairobi.
- 12. Begin CNDP message (unofficial Embassy translation from the French):

Negotiations Bulletin, December 20, 2008

One step forward, ten steps back: the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo still has not given up the military solution.

On the third day of the political negotiations taking place in the Kenyan capital between the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) and the Kinshasa government, parties have made progress, with the signing of the first documents of an agreement. These texts have to do with negotiation procedures. The government delegation, however, hangs on to its refusal to authorize mediators to appeal, as facilitators, when substantive questions will be debated, to the presidents of both chambers of Parliament as well as to representatives of the Parliamentary majority and opposition.

Parallel to these negotiations, on the ground in North Kivu, the troops of the FARDC-FDLR/PARECO-DMN (various Congolese Mai-Mai groups) government coalition have begun to implement the government's famous directive, "Fight and Talk." At this time, they are advancing in combat formations into the zones from which the CNDP withdrew according to its unilateral ceasefire of October 29, 12008. This is the case at the Kanyabayonga-Nyanzale, Kabasha-Kiwanja, and Nyakakoma-Ishasha-Kiwanja roads. By all appearances, in the next few hours they could be in contact with the CNDP troops. It should be recalled that the government coalition had similarly occupied 12 kilometers of the area that the CNDP had withdrawn from on the Kibati-Goma road last October, when it had decided not to take the city of Goma, that the government forces are still there today, and that they use this road to transport combat troops and equipment.

The CNDP had created these buffer zones to avoid all chance of confrontation between the two opposing armies and had asked MONUC to protect the zones. This deliberate reoccupying of buffer zones reveals the government coalition's war-mongering impulses and desire for revenge. But at the same time, the coalition takes an enormous risk, that of endangering the Nairobi negotiation process at a time when the entire Congolese people wish to enjoy the holidays in peace and tranquility. Is there anything more important than to give the Congolese people what is theirs by right, that is, peace through a comprehensive agreement between the parties, at this end-of-year season? The government should think twice before plunging headlong into futile adventures whose only outcome will be ridicule, once again, whereas by exercising restraint, it has a chance to grow in stature by proving itself responsible to the people its mission it is to lead in peace and security.

End unofficial Embassy translation

13. Original French text of CNDP statement follows:

BULLETIN DES NEGOCIATIONS DU 20 DECEMBRE 2008

UN PAS EN AVANT, DIX EN ARRIERE : LE GOUVERNEMENT RD-CONGOLAIS N'A TOUJOURS PAS RENONCE A L'OPTION MILITAIRE.

AU 3eme JOUR DES NEGOCIATIONS POLITIQUES QUI SE DEROULENT DANS LA CAPITALE KENYANE ENTRE LE CONGRES NATIONAL POUR LA DEFENSE DU PEUPLE, CNDP, ET LE GOUVERNEMENT DE KINSHASA, LES PARTIES ONT FAIT DES PROGRES AVEC LA SIGNATURE DE PREMIERS DOCUMENTS D'ACCORD. IL S'AGIT DE TEXTES DE PROCEDURE DES NEGOCIATIONS. CEPENDANT, LA DELEGATION GOUVERNEMENTALE CONTINUE A CAMPER SUR SON REFUS DE DONNER MANDAT AUX MEDIATEURS DE FAIRE APPEL, COMME FACILITATEURS, AU MOMENT OU S'OUVRIRONT LES DEBATS SUR LE FOND, AUX PRESIDENTS DE DEUX CHAMBRES DU PARLEMENT NATIONAL AINSI QU'A DES REPRESENTANTS DE LA MAJORITE ET DE L'OPPOSITION PARLEMENTAIRES.

PARALLELEMENT A CES NEGOCIATIONS, SUR LE TERRAIN DANS LE NORD-KIVU, LES TROUPES DE LA COALITION GOUVERNEMENTALE FARDC-FDLR/PARECO-DMN (DIVERS MAI-MAI NATIONAUX) ONT ENTREPRIS D'APPLIQUER LA FAMEUSE CONSIGNE DU GOUVERNEMENT DE "FIGHT AND TALK". EN CE MOMENT, ELLES PROGRESSENT EN POSITION DE COMBAT DANS LES ZONES DONT LE CNDP S'EST DESENGAGE EN VERTU DE SA DECLARATION UNILATERALE DE CESSATION DES HOSTILITES DU 29 OCTOBRE 2008. C'EST LE CAS SUR LES AXES KANYABAYONGA - NYANZALE, KABASHA - KIWANDJA ET NYAKAKOMA -ISHASHA-KIWANDJA. SELON TOUTES LES APPARENCES, DANS LES PROCHAINES HEURES ELLES POURRAIENT SE TROUVER AU CONTACT DES TROUPES DU CNDP. ON SE RAPPELLERA QUE LA COALITION GOUVERNEMENTALE AVAIT DE LA MEME MANIERE REOCCUPE AU MOIS D'OCTOBRE DERNIER LES 12 KMS DE LA ZONE DONT LE CNDP S'ETAIT DESENGAGE SUR L'AXE KIBATI - GOMA, LORSQU'IL A RENONCE

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DE PRENDRE LA VILLE DE GOMA, ELLES Y DEMEURENT ENCORE AUJOURD'HUI ET Y ACHEMINENT DES RENFORTS EN HOMMES ET EN MATERIELS DE COMBAT.

LE CNDP AVAIT CREE CES ZONES DE DESENGAGEMENT POUR EVITER TOUTE POSSIBILITE DE CONFRONTATION DES DEUX ARMEES ADVERSES ET AVAIT DEMANDE A LA MONUC D'EN GARANTIR LA PROTECTION. PAR CETTE REOCCUPATION DELIBEREE, LA COALITION GOUVERNEMENTALE VIENT DE MANIFESTER SES ELANS BELLICISTES ET SON DESIR DE REVANCHE. AIS EN MEME TEMPS, ELLE PREND L'ENORME RISQUE DE COMPROMETTRE LE PROCESSUS DES NEGOCIATIONS EN COURS A NAIROBI ALORS QUE TOUT LE PEUPLE CONGOLAIS ENTEND PASSER LES FESTIVITES DE FIN D'ANNEE DANS LA TRANQUILLITE ET LA PAIX TOTALE. Y A-T-IL PLUS IMPORTANT QUE DE REDONNER AU PEUPLE CONGOLAIS CE QUI LUI REVIENT DE DROIT, C'EST-A-DIRE LA PAIX A TRAVERS UN ACCORD GLOBAL ENTRE LES PARTIES EN CETTE FIN D'ANNEE ? LE GOUVERNEMENT DEVRAIT Y REFLECHIR PAR DEUX FOIS AVANT DE S'ELANCER DANS DES AVENTURES SANS ISSUE ET DONT IL NE SAURAIT SORTIR QUE RIDICULISE, UNE FOIS DE PLUS, ALORS QU'EN SE RETENANT, IL A L'OCCASION DE SE GRANDIR EN SE MONTRANT RESPONSABLE VIS-A-VIS DU PEUPLE QU'IL A MISSION DE DIRIGER DANS LA PAIX ET LA SECURITE.

End original French text of CNDP statement

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